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THE OBSERVATOR.

Of the Earl of Peterborough's *Expedition. Remarks thereon. Of the* Grand Jury's *Preſentment of that Scandalous* Libel, *call'd* The Church of England's Memorial. *Reflections on the* Whipping-Poſt.

From **Saturday** September the 8th, to **Wednesday** September the 12th, 1705.

Country-m. NOW, Maſter *Obſervator*, to the Point; you know I had your Promiſe relating to the News I left you; I hope you have conſider'd the Papers throughly; I know you had Written a Page or two concerning my Lord *Peterborough*'s Expedition on the Subject matter of a Letter you found in the *Poſt-Man*, but you threw it by, and ſaid you would not meddle with that Subject, until ſuch time as you had an Account of that Affair Publiſhed by the *Queens Authority*, which I have now brought you.

Obſ. Honeſt *Country-man*, my Opinion of the Earl of *Peterborough*'s, and Sir *Cloudſley*'s Expedition is the ſame as ever. I don't relye ſo much in Point of *Succeſs*, on the forming of *Deſigns*, as on the *Integrity*, *Conduct* and *Courage* of thoſe that are to put 'em in Execution. No fitter Perſon, no one more Cordial and Stedfaſt in the Intereſt of the Government than the Earl of *Peterborough* could be employ'd in that Expedition; but conſider the Unhappy Circumſtances of this Noble Peer, he was equip'd with a good Fleet, a conſiderable Number of Brave Troops, and Joyn'd with an Honeſt and Able Commander at Sea, to Face *Foreign Enemies* in a well Deſign'd and Generous Expedition; but at the ſame time he left on his Rear at Home the worſt of Enemies to our Country, who, if the unlucky Accidents of *Fortune* would give no occaſion of *Recrimination*, had *Malice* enough in their Breaſts to Forge *Scandals* and *Evil Surmiſes* againſt the *Conduct* of ſo good a *Patriot*.

Theſe had not been wanting to blacken the *Reputation* of the Earl of *Peterborough*, in order to enhance the merit of ſome who have been juſtly diſplaced from the *Miniſtry*, and ſucceeded by much abler Perſons, who found all things in *Diſorder* and *Confuſion*, in reſpect of the *Common Good*, whoſe *Slips* and *Overſights*, if there have been any, muſt proceed from that vaſt Quantity of *Rubbiſh*, they were firſt to remove in Order to make the way plain to our *Common Safety*.

I can take no better Method to ſatisfie you, and the reſt of Mankind, in Relation to our Expedition to the *Mediterranean*, than by comparing the Letter Printed in the *Poſt-Man*, bearing date from on Board the *Britania*, in *Altea-Bay*, the 3d of *Auguſt*, O. S. with the Accounts received ſince that time, Publiſhed by *Authority*, which the *Queen* has received from the Earl of *Peterborough* and Sir *Cloudſley*.

Indeed I was much concerned when I read that Account on the *Poſt-Man*, when I knew the Author of that Paper to be in the Intereſt of the Government, tho' a Foreigner, and that he had many times ſet us right in Point of Foreign Affairs againſt the Wicked Suggeſtions of our Home Enemies; but here I found the Succeſs of this Expedition entirely given up, ſo that we had nothing left to hope for but the Effect of our Prayers for ſome new turn of *Providence*, that might give us an unexpected Event.

Whatever Delays may have happened in *Portugal* to the Confederate Fleet, which in ſome meaſure might retard the Expedition, is not to be attributed to the Earl of *Peterborough*; and that the Writer of this Letter upon theſe Diſappointments regrets to think of the Miſcarriages of ſo great a Project, will, by the ſucceeding Account from the Government, prove him to be one of little Faith, and leſs Foreſight.

For what he ſays of the Zeal of the *Cattalans* for their Lawful Prince, might have created in him better hopes than the thoughts of a Miſcarriage, and his ſaying, that his Lordſhip wanted 200000 *l.* to carry on the Project, ſeems to be a Reflection on the Government, which never yet wanted or ſpared Money to carry on their Deſigns.

But this Melancholy Repreſentation is cleared up by the Juſt views we have of Succeſs from the happy beginning of the Execution of that Deſign, a thing well begun is half ended. And if the Landing of 10000 of the Confederate Forces in *Catalonia*, and thoſe being joyn'd by 5000 of the Natives, whilſt the Partizans of the Duke *De Anjou*, after all their Boaſts, are forc'd to fly to the Mountains for ſhelter, as alſo that the Governours of *Barcelona* and *Palemos* are forced to turn the Cannons of the Gariſon upon the Burghers, to prevent an Inſurrection. I ſay, if this be not a good beginning, I know not what to think, and ſuch a beginning too, as is a clear Omen of a good end?

Let us caſt our Eyes Homeward, and behold *Gibraltar* out of Fear or Danger with a few Troops in it, which I think is a clear Proof of our Strength and the Weakneſs of the Enemy in that part of *Europe*.

Let us, in the next place, take a view of the Enemies Fleet, which but laſt Year pretended to the Empire of the *Mediterranean* Sea, and boaſted of Victory, and we may ſee 'em Barricado'd and Boom'd up in their Harbours, and their Sailors making an Unnatural Sound, crying for help to the Land, which us'd to be defended by the Shipping.

If theſe are not Inſtances of Succeſs, if this be not the Accompliſhment of part of the Earl of *Peterborough*'s Expedition, Judge ye.

But what ſhall be done to theſe Evil Tongues, under which lye the Poiſon of *Aſps*? Mens Tongues its ſeems are their own and their Pens too; for ſuch a Liberty was never before taken to ſpeak and write againſt a Government, to Vilifie and Aſperſe a Miniſtry, becauſe they are entered on the beſt Methods to keep the Queen on the Throne, to pull down the *French* Tyrant, and to keep out the Pretender.

And,

And, *Country-man*, here we muſt not paſs over the Licentiouſneſs of the Preſs without Reflection and Obſervation. One may be, that the greateſt part of the Authors of News-Papers are Foreigners, who hand the Account of Foreign Affairs to the Natives of *England* in ſuch manner as beſt ſuits the Circumſtances of their own Abroad, and at all times are giving *Falſe Turns* and *Gloſſes* to Foreign Tranſactions, either to *Amuſe* or *Miſlead* the People.

'Tis not many Years ago that one *Tournelles*, a *French* News-Writer at the *Hague*, for medling, in one of his Printed Papers, with the Affairs of *Spain*, was not only forbid by the States for ever Printing any more News, but was Baniſh'd the *Hague*. I will not preſcribe to the Miniſtry, but ſure I am, the ſuffering ſuch vaſt Numbers of Printed Papers muſt be of dangerous Conſequence to any Government.

Nor are written News Letters leſs dangerous. That of *Dyers* is Encouraged by the *Tory Faction*, and in it Perſons and Things are Miſrepreſented, and tho' he has been under the Cenſure of Parliament, and, if I am not miſtaken, Convicted, and never brought to Judgment, yet the Party keeps him ſtill employ'd, with 30 or 40 Writers in that Helliſh Service.

Country-m. Maſter, here's a long Letter about *Dyer* and his Maid *Kate*, the *Sky colour'd Stockins*, the *Wild Child*, &c.

Obſ. We muſt not break off from Profitable Diſcourſes to entertain the World with Traſh. Some *News-Writers* can hardly get *Bread*, when others are able to keep *Whores*, let 'em go before the Wind to the Devil, it matters not you or I. But their *Falſe Turns* to things, and *Officious Falſehood* affect the *Government*. The laſt *Grand Jury* of the City of *London*, in their Preſentment at the *Old-Baily*, of that *Impudent* and *Scandalous Libel*, call'd *The Memorial of the Church of* England, are very good Obſervators; take it in their Words, for they can't be meuded.

And we cannot but Obſerve, that when, and at ſuch times Her Majeſties Affairs are moſt Proſperous and Succeſsful, that then, and chiefly then, the Enemies of Her Majeſty, and the Peace and Welfare of theſe Kingdoms, do the more Induſtriouſly Contrive and Diſperſe ſuch Factions *and* Seditious Libels, Books, *and* Papers, *to Traduce our Miniſtry, and Diſtract our Councils.*

Country-m. Maſter *Obſervator*, the Gentlemen of that *Grand Jury*, are a parcel of brave bold *Britains*; here's their Good Health in a Bumper, and when I go to *London* I will invite every one of 'em to my Houſe, and Treat 'em with a Sir-Loin of Roaſt Beef, a Diſh of Barn-door Fowl and Bacon, and will give em *October* as long as Drinking is good; and I'll beg ſome of the Printed Copies of this Preſentment, which I will paſte up in my Hall for the Honour of the *Jury*.

Obſ. Well ſaid, Honeſt *Country-man*, I hope this Preſentment will have a better Effect than that of *Heraclitus*; ſome Honeſt Gentlemen preſented it to the Court, but there was no Body found to Proſecute. The ſame Printer that Printed *Heraclitus*, the *Exorbitant Grants* of King *William*, &c. Printed alſo the *Memorial*; and the ſame Author that wrote *Heraclitus*, now writes the *Whipping-Poſt*, a Scandalous Libel, deſign'd and carried on to Aſperſe the *Government* and *Miniſtry*.

You remember that I made ſome Reflections on his Aſperſions of the Queen, in her beſtowing a mark of Her Royal Favour in the Knighting of Doctor *Read*; but the Malice of that Party, follows Her Majeſty from the *Court* to the *Cathedral*, from Her *Civil* to Her *Religious Exerciſes*.

I think there can be no greater Reflection on Her Majeſty, and that Noble Attendance at St. *Pauls*, on the Thanſgiving-Day, as alſo on the Magiſtracy of the Honourable City of *London*, than what is Maliciouſly and Falſly inſerted in the *Whiping-Poſt*, *Number* 13. which Paragraph I ſhall give you at large, to Create in all Honeſt Men an abhorence of the Practiſes of the *High Church-Party*.

Make Room, ſaid the Cryer, *for the Dean of* L—n, *with* Ephraim upon Judah's Shoulders. *What's the Fellow Mad*, cry'd the Court, *to make Reflections upon a Gentleman that has had the Thanks of the Lord Mayor and Court of Aldermen? No matter for that: He had put himſelf in Print, and all things of that Nature fell under their Worſhips Conſideration. Upon which the Court awarded, that had the Sermon been half ſo good as the Text, no Body could have ſaid but the Preacher had done Juſtice to his Auguſt Audience, and the Duke of* Marlborough's *Glorious Exploits; but that it had been Her Majeſties Misfortune out of three Sermons Preach'd before Her at St. Pauls, to have two of them, and thoſe the laſt, not worthy of a Country Vicaridge: And if Her Brave General had taken no more Pains in Forcing the Lines than Her Chaplain did in giving God Thanks for it, Her Troops would have been out of the Enemies Country to this Day.*

I need not ſay any thing of the Sermon Preach'd by the Reverend Dr. *Willis*, Dean of *Lincoln*, before Her Majeſty; the Sermon will ſpeak for it ſelf; and I am very glad to find it brought to ſo low a Price, that 'tis every Bodies Money. That Sermon, for ought I know, may do more Service to Her Majeſties true Intereſt, than any Book yet has been Written; and for this Reaſon do the Enemies of our Peace Expoſe it.

Country-m. Maſter *Obſervator*, Let's Drink a Bumper to the Health of that Honeſt *Clergyman*. Pray God encreaſe their Number. I have ſuch a Love for that Sermon that I'll ſpeak to Mr. *How* to get *it* Bound up with my *Common-Prayer-Book*.

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* She is Removed from the *Glaſs-Lanthorn* in *Plough-Yard*, to the *Golden-Ball*, in *Hand-Court*, over-againſt Great Turn Stile, in *Holbourn*.

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